

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is requested. After entry of this amendment, claims 63-79 (a total of seventeen (17) claims) are pending in the application. Claims 1-61 are canceled, and claims 63, 67, 74, 76 and 78 are amended.

In the final office action dated March 8, 2005, the examiner objects to claim 76 due to informalities; rejects claims 1, 3, 11, 13-16, 24, 26, 28, 36, 38-41, 49, 52-53, 61, 64-66 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Lipkin, et al (US 6,138,235); rejects claims 2, 4-10, 12, 17-23, 25-27, 29-35, 37, 42-48, 50-51, 54-60, 62, 63, 67-73, 75 and 78-79 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over one or more of Lipkin, et al (US 6,138,235); Koehler (US 6,301,658); Butt, et al (US 6,754,829); Davis, et al (US 6,088,450); and Devine, et al (US 6,598,167); and objects to claims 76-77 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would find these claims allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Amendments

Applicant cancels claims 1-62. Applicant amends independent claim 63 to include the subject matter from dependent claim 76 noted as allowable in the examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter found in office action paragraph 33. Applicant amends dependent claim 76 to remove the features of the invention placed in independent claim 63, and to address the informality objection noted in examiner's paragraph 3. Finally, applicant amends claims 67, 74 and 78 to correct minor typographical errors, and to correct issues of antecedent basis caused by present and previous claim amendments.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-1782 (303313.01)
Application No.: 09/773,256
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**PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116**

Because claims 64-79 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 63, applicant submits that its amendments to independent claim 63 place pending claims 63-79 in condition for allowance, thereby providing that this amendment be entered after final.

Applicant requests entry of the above amendments solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicant respectfully traverses the examiner's claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Lipkin, et al (US 6,138,235), and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over one or more of Lipkin, et al (US 6,138,235); Koehler (US 6,301,658); Butt, et al (US 6,754,829); Davis, et al (US 6,088,450); and Devine, et al (US 6,598,167). Applicant will continue prosecution of the rejected claims in a continuing application.

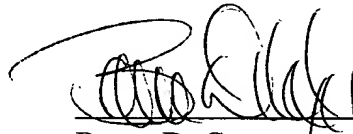
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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that pending claims 63-79 are allowable, that the application is in condition for allowance, and requests that the examiner issue an early notice of allowance. The examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce D. George", is written over a horizontal line.

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